

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4 and 6 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An air-cooled four-stroke internal combustion engine comprising:

a crankshaft;

a fan rotor adapted to be rotatably driven by said crankshaft to generate a cooling air for cooling said engine;

an oil pan disposed below said crankshaft; ~~and~~

a fuel tank disposed below said oil pan; and

a space being formed ~~below~~ between said oil pan and said fuel tank and extending in the axial direction of said crankshaft along the lower surface of said oil pan and allow a cooling air to pass therethrough,

wherein an upstream portion of said lower surface, is inclined upward, toward the upstream, in a vertical section taken along the axis of said crankshaft to receive said cooling air therein.

2. (Original) The air-cooled four-stroke internal combustion engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said oil pan has a bottom wall formed with a plurality of channels facing said space, each of said channels being defined by a corresponding convex bead extending along the axis of said crankshaft and protruding toward the inward side of said oil pan, to have an opening facing downward.

3. (Original) The air-cooled four-stroke internal combustion engine as defined in claim 1, wherein said oil pan has a bottom wall formed with a plurality of fins each extending along the axis of said crankshaft and downward toward said space.

4. (Currently Amended) An air-cooled four-stroke internal combustion engine comprising:

a crankshaft

a fan rotor adapted to be rotatable driven by said crankshaft to generate an airstream for cooling said engine;

an oil pan disposed below said crankshaft; ~~and~~

a fuel tank disposed below said oil pan;

a pipe extending in the direction of the axis of the crankshaft to penetrate through said oil pan and lubrication oil contained in said oil pan so as to allow a cooling air to pass therethrough; and

a space being formed between said oil pan and said fuel tank and extending in the axial direction of said crankshaft along the lower surface of said oil pan and allow cooling air to pass therethrough.

5. (Original) The air-cooled four-stroke internal combustion engine as defined in claim 1 or 4, further comprising:

a cylinder block and a crankcase which are separated from one another in a lateral direction of said engine at the boundary between a cylinder defined by said cylinder block and a crank chamber defined by said crankcase, and

a heat shield member interposed between said cylinder block and said crankcase to prevent heat transfer from said cylinder block to said crankcase.

6. (Currently Amended) The air-cooled four-stroke internal combustion engine as defined in claim 1 or 4, further comprising:

a valve chamber;

a camshaft located in a camcase in a rotatable manner;

a cylinder block integrally formed with at least the bottom wall of said valve chamber ~~chamber~~ chamber on the upward side of a cylinder defined by said cylinder block; and

an air passage formed in said cylinder ~~block~~ block between the top wall of said cylinder and said bottom wall of said valve chamber to extend in the direction of the axis of said crank shaft.